



# Amesbury Rural District Council.

## Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year 1938.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 19th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District.

I am endeavouring to follow out the lines suggested in circular 1,728 issued by the Ministry of Health to you in October 1938. As modern Public Health matters are mostly under the control of the County Councils, this report must necessarily be confined mainly to statistics and sanitary administration, as only those matters with which you are concerned are dealt with.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931: 16,883

Area, 63,464 Acres

Population—Estimated Mid 1938—16,780

Rateable Value: £93,476

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £391

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1938, 3,169.

Births, 1938.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Birth Rate, 1938.				England and Wales		
Live	153	137	290 ( 10 Illegitimate)	Live	17.3			Live	15.1	
Still	2	7	9 ( 0 )	Still	0.5			Still	0.6	
				1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931
Birth Rate				18.4	18.1	17.6	17.9	18.8	20.2	20.4
England and Wales				14.9	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.4	15.3	15.8

Deaths: Males, 68. Females, 56. Total, 124.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Death Rate	..	9.4	9.6	9.9	9.1	9.1	8.4	7.1	10.9	8.6
England and Wales	..	11.6	12.4	12.1	11.7	11.8	12.3	12.0	12.3	11.4

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age: Males 5. Females 6. Total, 11 (Illegitimate 1)

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)		37.9	21.5	19.4	38.7	48	51.1	34.4	66.6	57.4
England and Wales	..	53	58	59	57	59	64	65	66	74
Deaths from Measles (all ages),	..	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
.. Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
.. Diarrhoea (under two years)		0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
No. of Women dying in consequence of Child Birth	..	..	..	1	0	2	0	1	0	5

The areal comparability factor this year for death rate is given as 1.29.

## STAFF.

The staff consists of Dr. A. H. Wilson, L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health. C. Laidman, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. Cert. Inspector of Meat and Food., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. Commenced duties 18th September 1933.

J. R. Tanner, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B., Additional Sanitary Inspector. Mr. F. Walls, Additional Sanitary Inspector left the Council's employ in December 1938, and Mr. Tanner commenced duties on the 2nd, January, 1939.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.				Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total deaths.	
Scarlet Fever	26				26		2	
Diphtheria	4				4		0	
Puerperal Pyrexia	3				3		0	
Pneumonia	12 (6 Mil.)				7 (6 Mil.)		3	
Erysipelas	3				2		0	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0				0		0	

## TUBERCULOSIS.

	New Cases.								Deaths.	
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
25	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	1	—	—
35	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	3	3	2	2	3	4	0	0	0

No action was taken by me with regard to Tuberculosis employees in the Milk trade.

No action was taken by the Council under Sec. 62 P.H.A., 1925.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**Scarlet Fever.** 26 cases were notified during the year and were fairly evenly distributed over the whole of the district and during the year and the large majority call for no comment. There were however two deaths which is a very unusual thing in these days. They both had complications which were the cause of their deaths.

**Diphtheria.** 4 cases only were notified during the year and these were at considerable intervals both as regards time and locality and all recovered. It may be considered that the district was practically free from this disease during the year.

**Pneumonia.** 12 cases were notified and of these six were military cases and treated in their Hospitals, of those notified three died.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.** Three cases were notified and of these two were military cases treated in their Hospital and the other case was treated in our Hospital. All recovered.

**Erysipelas.** 3 cases were notified and two of them treated in the Isolation Hospital. All recovered.

In addition to the above two cases of **whooping cough** and one of **Streptococcal Tonsilitis** were admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.

**Cerebro-spinal Fever.** No case was notified to me but two deaths are assigned to this district, one was in a soldier and the other was an inward transferable death from another district.

**Tuberculosis.** During the year, 6 Pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary cases were notified and during the same period 7 Pulmonary cases died.

## WATER SUPPLY.

**Amesbury Parish.** This supply continues to be very satisfactory. An extension of the London Road main has been made to supply the Council's new Housing Estate at Holders Road.

Chemical analysis has been done once and Bacteriological examination monthly during the year, a copy of the chemical analysis is below while bacteriological examination has on each occasion shown a complete absence of coliform bacilli.

### AMESBURY.

Chemical.	Parts per 100,000				
Re-action	...	...	...	Alkaline	7.2
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	...	...	P.H.	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") Ammonia	...	...	...		0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (2 hours at 27° C.)					0.006
Chlorides	...	...	...		2.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...		1.0
Total Hardness	...	...	...		38.0
(a) Temporary	...	...	...		30.0
(b) Permanent	...	...	...		8.0
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...		Nil
Nitrites	...	...	...		Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment			...		Nil

**Bulford and Durrington.** These parishes are supplied by the joint scheme which was put into operation in November 1934. Samples of water were taken from various private wells at Durrington, and as a result of unsatisfactory analyses seven houses were connected to the mains. 29 cottages at Bulford, the property of the War Department were also connected to the mains during the year.

Chemical analysis has been done once and Bacteriological examination monthly during the year, a copy of the chemical analysis is below while bacteriological examination has on each occasion shown a complete absence of coliform bacilli.

### DURRINGTON.

Chemical.	Parts per 100,000				
Reaction	...	...	...	Alkaline	7.4
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	...	...	P.H.	0.001
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	...	...	...		0.001
Oxygen absorbed from per.nang. in 2 hrs. at 27° C.	...	...	...		0.05
Chlorides	...	...	...		2.2
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...		1.0
Total Hardness	...	...	...		42.0
(a) Temporary	...	...	...		30.0
(b) Permanent	...	...	...		12.0
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...		Nil
Nitrates	...	...	...		Nil
Microscopical Examination of the Sediment			...		Nil

**Cholderton Parish.** This parish is supplied by the Cholderton Water Company which also supplies a part of the Andover Rural District. One sample was taken during the year and this proved very satisfactory chemically, and bacteriologically was sterile.

**Shrewton Parish.** The tender of Messrs. Wort and Way of Salisbury was accepted for this scheme, and I am pleased to report that by the end of the year under review the laying of the mains had been completed. The installation of the pumps was required to complete the scheme. At the time of writing water is being supplied to the inhabitants, analysis shows excellent chemical results and bacteriologically the water is sterile.

**Tilshead Parish.** The supply from the War Department supply at Tilshead is satisfactory. An extension of the pipe line has been made during the year to supply houses erected by the Council.

**General.** The following private supplies are available in the District :—

Amesbury	...	...	...	...	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
Bulford	...	...	...	...	War Department.
Allington	...	...	...	...	Mr. A. Curtis' supply.
Durnford and Woodford	...	...	...	...	Hon. Louis Greville's supply.
Durrington	...	...	...	...	Mr. S. Toomer's supply.
Idmiston	...	...	...	...	Mr. G. Bright's supply.
Shrewton	...	...	...	...	Mr. G. R. Smith's supply.
Milston	...	...	...	...	Dr. H. H. Clarke's supply.
Winterbourne	...	...	...	...	Mr. F. M. White's supply.

#### **DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.**

**Amesbury.** This parish is the only one in the District which has the advantage of a main scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal. Samples of the effluent which is discharged into the river are taken by the County Council and these have proved satisfactory.

Various lengths of the old sewers in Amesbury are defective and the question of relaying these lengths should receive consideration. During the period December to March the disposal works were unable to deal with the greatly increased flow which is attributable to the sub-soil water finding its way into the defective sewers.

An extension of the sewer was made in Holders Road to serve the Council's new housing estate.

**Durrington and Bulford.** I regret to have to report that progress has been held up towards the provision of a main scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for these parishes.

A Ministry of Health Inquiry has been held into the Council's application for a loan for the sewerage of Bulford and Durrington. A late request by the War Department to include Bulford Camp in the scheme has however further delayed the matter.

#### **RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

No action has been found necessary under the provisions of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

#### **CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

Practically the whole of the dwellings in Amesbury, with the exception of the Ministry of Agriculture's estate are connected to the main sewers. Only one conversion of an E.C. to W.C. was made in Amesbury during the year. With the exception of the Council's Housing Schemes at Amesbury the closet accommodation to Council houses is E.C.'s.

#### **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

The scheme of house refuse collection which came into operation on the 1st April, 1937, has proved satisfactory. The question of providing an incinerator capable of disposing of 8 tons of refuse per day of eight hours has received consideration. An Inquiry into the Council's application for a loan for £1,400 for the purchase of an Incinerator and tin baling plant has been held and sanction to the loan given. The tender submitted by the New Destructor Company Limited of Pershore has been accepted and the work will be put in hand at an early date. Collection of night soil is still carried out once weekly in the parishes of Bulford and Durrington.

#### **SHOPS AND OFFICES.**

No action has been found necessary under the Shops Act, 1934.

#### **CAMPING SITES.**

There are no recognised camping sites in the district and no licences were issued under Sec. 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

#### **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

There are no premises in the district which are likely to give rise to smoke nuisance, and no action has been found necessary.

#### **SWIMMING BATHS.**

There are no public or private swimming baths in the district to which the public have access.

#### **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

I am pleased to report that no case of bug infestation was found during the year under review.

## MILK SUPPLY.

The number of wholesale producers of milk registered at the end of the year was 69, of this number 20 persons hold licences to produce accredited milk and 3 persons hold licences to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Regular inspections have been made of all cowsheds and dairies in the district and many defects have been remedied as a result of informal action by the Sanitary Inspector.

Inspection has also been made along with the County Sanitary Inspector of premises where milk which is supplied to schools is produced. As a result of these inspections one producer was called upon to remedy defects.

Generally speaking the methods employed in the production of milk in the district are very satisfactory.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after verbal instructions only
Nuisances .. ..	126	48	22	1	18	1	14
Slaughterhouses .. ..	236	5	2	—	2	—	3
Knacker's Yards .. ..	10	1	—	—	—	—	1
Places where food is prepared .. ..	42	1	—	—	1	—	—
Cowsheds .. ..	303	13	12	1	9	1	—
Dairies and Milkstores .. ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. .. ..	24	2	2	—	2	—	—
Butchers' Shops .. ..	115	4	—	—	—	—	4
<b>Totals</b> .. ..	<b>866</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>

### Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered (1938)	..	..	..	69
"    Retail Purveyors registered (1938)	..	..	..	42
"    Certificates issued (Producers) during 1938	..	..	..	—
"    Certificates issued (Retailers) during 1938	..	..	..	—

Approximate number of Cows .. .. .. .. 2,500

### Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses ...	...	...	...	...	4
Notices received of Regular Slaughter	...	...	...	...	7
Notices received of Casual Slaughter	...	...	...	...	18

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed (if known) ... ..	375	15	52	1104	1144
Number Inspected ... ..	150	13	19	137	115
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</b>		N	I	L	
Whole Carcasses Condemned ... ..					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	13%	—	—	—	—
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>					
Whole Carcasses condemned ... ..	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	75%	—	—	—	—

## HOUSING.

71 plans were submitted during the year, including plans for 45 new houses, 34 alterations and additions to houses, 12 garages, and 2 other buildings.

Plans for 6 Houses and 1 Garage and Filling Station were disapproved.

Plans were submitted for 6 new Council Houses at Idmiston.

During the year 1938 Council Houses have been completed in the following parishes :—

Amesbury	...	...	10 houses.
Durrington	...	...	14 houses
Idmiston	...	..	6 houses.
Tilshead	...	...	6 houses.

The Council now owns 349 houses as set out below, and in addition 10 are under construction.

AMESBURY	...	...	73 non-parlour	ORCHESTON	...	...	6 non-parlour
			30 parlour	SHREWTON	...	...	18 „ „
ALLINGTON	...	...	4 non-parlour				12 „ „
BULFORD	...	...	24 „ „	TILSHEAD	...	...	12 „ „
BOSCOMBE	...	...	8 „ „	MIDDLE WOODFORD	...	...	4 „ „
CHOLDERTON	...	...	8 „ „	UPPER WOODFORD	...	...	2 „ „
DURNFORD	...	...	4 „ „	WINTERBORNE GUNNER	...	20 „ „	
DURRINGTON	...	...	12 parlour	WINTERBORNE DAUNTSEY	...	6 „ „	
			82 non-parlour				
FIGHELDEAN	...	...	4 „ „	<b>Under Construction.</b>			
IDMISTON	...	...	12 „ „	WINTERBORNE GUNNER	...	8 „ „	
NEWTON TONEY	...	...	8 „ „	AMESBURY (Holders Road)	...	2 „ „	

HOUSING ACTS, 1909—1936.

Statement of Work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1938, under the above Acts,  
in the Amesbury Rural District.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ... ... ... ... ...	342
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... ... ...	423
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ... ... ...	165
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... ... ...	223
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... ... ...	17
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ...	60

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ... ... ... ...	38
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	Nil
(a) By owners ... ... ... ...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners ... ... ... ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... ... ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	Nil
(a) By owners ... ... ... ...	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners ... ... ... ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ...	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ...	13

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... ...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... ...	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ... ... ...	46
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ... ... ...	52
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ... ... ...	289
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... ...	Nil
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... ...	9
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ... ...	50
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil.
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

### TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Causes of Death.		M.	F.		Causes of death.		M.	F.		Causes of death.		M.	F.		
1	All Causes	...	68	56		18	Other circulatory	...	1	5		36	Ill-defined causes	...		
2	Typhoid fever, etc.	...				19	Bronchitis	...	...	1			Special Causes (included in			
3	Measles	...				20	Pneumonia	...	7	3		No. 35)				
4	Scarlet fever	...	1	1		21	Other respiratory	...					Small-pox	...	...	
5	Whooping cough	...	2	1		22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	2			Poliomyelitis	...	...	
6	Diphtheria	...				23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...					Polioencephalitis	...		
7	Influenza	...	2	5		24	Appendicitis	...		1			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—			
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...				25	Cirrhosis of liver	...					Total	...	...	5 6
9	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	1	1		26	Other diseases of liver,	...					Legitimate	...	...	5 5
10	Respiratory tuberculosis	3	4			27	Other digestive	...	4				Illegitimate	...	...	1
11	Other tuberculous					28	Nephritis	...	1	2			Live Births			
12	Syphilis	...	1			29	Puerperal sepsis	...					Total	...	...	153 137
13	General paralysis of the insane, etc.	...	1			30	Other puerperal	...		1			Legitimate	...	...	148 132
14	Cancer	...	5	8		31	Congenital causes, etc.	...	4	1			Illegitimate	...	...	5 5
15	Diabetes	...	1			32	Senility	...	1	2			Stillbirths			
16	Cerebral haemorrhage		4			33	Suicide	...					Total	...	...	2 7
17	Heart disease	...	21	11		34	Other violence	...	5	1			Legitimate	...	...	2 7
	Aneurysm	...		1		35	Other defined causes	...	5	3			Illegitimate	...	...	0 0
													Population			16,780